

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

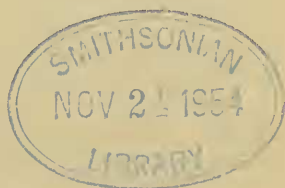
*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**  
Secretary to the Commission

**VOLUME 8. Part 12. Pp. 155—166**

**OPINION 295**

Validation, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name  
*Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893 (Class Crustacea, Order  
Stomatopoda)



**LONDON :**

Printed by Order of the International Trust for  
Zoological Nomenclature  
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological  
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office  
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7  
1954

**Price Five Shillings and Sixpence**

*(All rights reserved)*

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 295

### A. The Officers of the Commission

*Honorary Life President* : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History),  
Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England.*)

*President* : (Vacant).

*Vice-President* : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil.*)

*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England.*)

### B. The Members of the Commission

(*arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent  
re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology.*)

Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*) (*Vice-President*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. R. DYMOND (*University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (28th March 1944).

Professor Harold E. VOKES (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*) (23rd April 1944).

Dr. William Thomas CALMAN (*Coulsdon, Surrey, England*) (1st January 1947).

Professor Béla HANKÓ (*Békéscsaba, Hungary*) (1st January 1947).

Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (1st January 1947).

Professor H. BOSCHMA (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (1st January 1947).

Senor Dr. Angel CABRERA (*Eva Peron, F.C.N.G.R., Argentina*) (27th July 1948)

Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*) (27th July 1948)

Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948)

Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950).

Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950).

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950).

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Department of Systematic Zoology, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950)

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950).

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950).

## OPINION 295

### VALIDATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE GENERIC NAME "ODONTODACTYLUS" BIGELOW, 1893 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER STOMATOPODA)

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, the generic name *Gammaris* [H.S.], 1876, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 731 :—*Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893 (gender : masculine) (type species, by subsequent selection by Bigelow (1931) : *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758) (Class Crustacea, Order Stomatopoda).

(3) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 122 :—*Gammaris* [H.S.], 1876, as suppressed, under the Plenary Powers, under (1) above.

(4) The undermentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 139 :—*scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cancer scyllarus* (specific name of the type species of *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893).

#### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 27th May 1946, Dr. L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) submitted to the

Commission a paper containing proposals in regard to the names of seven genera of the Orders Stomatopoda and Decapoda (Class Crustacea). One of the names dealt with in this paper was *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893 (Class Crustacea, Order Stomatopoda). Later, the separate elements comprised in the foregoing application were split up, and on 6th September 1950 the following definitive application relating exclusively to the present case was submitted to the Commission :—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to validate the generic name  
“*Odontodactylus*” Bigelow, 1893 (Class Crustacea,  
Order Stomatopoda)**

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

The present application relates to a generic name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, which is in universal use for a well-known genus of Stomatopoda, but which is technically invalid, being a synonym of an earlier generic name which has hitherto been completely overlooked in the literature. The substitution of a totally unknown name for the well-established name *Odontodactylus* would give rise to great confusion and would serve no useful purpose of any kind. I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent the ruthless application of the Law of Priority in this way by using their Plenary Powers to validate the generic name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893.

2. The following are the references to the generic names dealt with in the present application :—

*Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, *Johns Hopkins Univ. Circ.* 12 : 100 (type species, by subsequent selection by Bigelow, 1931 (*Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.* 72 : 144) : *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 633).

*Gamaris* [H.S.], 1876, *Ceylon*, 2 : 275 (type species, by monotypy : *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 633).

3. In the second volume of a work published in 1878 under the title “*Ceylon, a general Description of the Island, historical, physical, statistical, Containing the most recent information, by an Officer, late of the Ceylon Rifles. London. 1876*”, the author, whose identity is unknown and who wrote over the initials “H.S.”, gave, at the end of the twenty-ninth chapter, a list of the species of Crustacea recorded by H. Milne Edwards (1837, *Hist. nat. Crust.* 2) as occurring in the

Indian seas. In this list "H.S." inserted the entry "*Gamaris scyllarus*, Rump." There is no doubt that the species so referred to is the species *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758.

4. The above species is, however (as shown above), the type species of the well-known genus *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893. Accordingly, under the Law of Priority, the name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow is invalid, being an objective junior synonym of the name *Gamaris* [H.S.], 1876. It would, however, be ridiculous to abandon so well established a name as *Odontodactylus* in a favour of a name (*Gamaris*) that has never been in use, is quite unknown and was published by an author who was almost certainly not a carcinologist. I accordingly ask the International Commission to use their Plenary Powers to prevent the quite unnecessary confusion which follow such a change. The concrete proposals which I therefore submit for consideration are that the Commission should :—

- (1) use their Plenary Powers (a) to suppress the generic name *Gamaris* [H.S.], 1876, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, and (b) to validate the generic name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893 ;
- (2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893 (type species, by subsequent selection by Bigelow, 1931 : *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758), as validated in (1) (b) above ;
- (3) place the generic name *Gamaris* [H.S.], 1876, as suppressed under (1) (a) above, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binominal combination *Cancer scyllarus*.

5. I should add, with reference to the decision by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, that in future the gender of every generic name added to the *Official List* is to be specified therein (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 341), that the gender of the generic name *Odontodactylus* is masculine.

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. *Registration of the present application:* On receipt in June 1946 of Dr. Holthuis' proposals relating to the names of genera of the Order Decapoda and to the name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, and other names of genera of the Order Stomatopoda,

it was decided, as an interim measure, to register the whole of Dr. Holthuis' proposals as a single unit, and the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 231 was assigned to the File so opened. When in August 1950 an active start was made with the preparation for publication of the various cases comprised in Dr. Holthuis' original application of 1946, it was decided to break up that application into its component parts and to allot a separate Registered Number to each case. The original Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 231 was retained for the application relating to the name *Crangon Fabricius*, and the new Number Z.N.(S.) 475 was allotted to the present case.

3. *Publication of the present application:* Owing to the limited amount of time available, it was not possible for the International Commission at its Session held in Paris in 1948 to consider all the cases then awaiting attention, and the present one was one of the cases which for this reason was not placed before the Commission for discussion at that Session. In the period immediately following, it was necessary to devote the entire resources of the Commission to the preparation and publication of the Official Records of the Paris Session, and it was not until the autumn of 1950 that it was possible to resume preparations for the publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* of applications on individual nomenclatorial cases submitted to the Commission for decision. As has already been explained, it was decided that the case of the name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, should be treated as constituting a separate application, and this inevitably involved a certain amount of redrafting. In addition, it was necessary to expand the application somewhat, in order to take account of the decisions by the Paris Congress to establish an *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* (then styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*) and also *Official Indexes of Rejected and Invalid Names* (both generic and specific). The application, so revised, was received on 4th September 1950, and about a fortnight later was sent to the printer. Publication took place on 20th April 1951 in Part 3 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Holthuis, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 86—87).

4. *Issue of Public Notices:* Under the revised arrangements approved by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology,

Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 20th April 1951, both in Part 3 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, the Part in which Dr. Holthuis' application was published, and to the other prescribed serial publications. The publication of these Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed.

5. *Support received for Dr. Holthuis' application* : Letters of support for Dr. Holthuis' application were received from the following specialists :—(a) Professor Dr. Heinrich Balss (*Zoologische Staatssammlung, München a.D., Germany*) ; (b) Professor E. Sollaud (*Université de Lyon, Faculté des Sciences, Lyon, France*) ; (c) Dr. R. P. Bigelow (*Woods Hole, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) ; (d) Dr. Isobel Gordon (*British Museum (Natural History), London*). The communications so received are given in the immediately following paragraphs.

6. *Support received from Dr. Heinrich Balss (Hauptkonservator der Zoologischen Staatssammlung, München a.D., Germany)* : On 6th July 1951, Professor Dr. Heinrich Balss (*Hauptkonservator der Zoologischen Staatssammlung, München a.D., Germany*) wrote the following letter in support of the present and certain other applications relating to the names of genera of the Class Crustacea (Balss, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **2** : 344) :—

Mr. L. B. Holthuis hat mir eine Reihe von Anträgen an die internationale Nomenklaturkommission zugesandt (Commission's references Z.N.(S.) 231 (*Crangon*), 209 (*Ligia*), 473 (*Scyllarides*), 474 (*Lysiosquilla*), 475 (*Odontodactylus*)).

Ich erlaube mir, Ihnen mitzuteilen, dass ich mit allen seinen Vorschlägen einverstanden bin.

7. *Support received from Professor E. Sollaud (Université de Lyon, Faculté des Sciences, Lyon, France)* :—On 11th July 1951, Professor E. Sollaud (*Université de Lyon, Faculté des Sciences, Lyon*) wrote the following letter in support of the present and

certain other applications relating to the names of genera of the Class Crustacea (Sollaud, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 344) :—

Je reçois de mon collègue et ami Mr. Holthuis, du Museum de Leide, cinq notes relative à des propositions faites à l'International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature au sujet d'un certain nombre de noms de genres de Crustacés (Commission's references Z.N.(S.) 231 (*Crangon*), 209 (*Ligia*), 473 (*Scyllarides*), 474 (*Lysiosquilla*), 475 (*Odontodactylus*)).

Je vous informe que, après avoir lu attentivement ces notes, j'approuve entièrement les propositions de Mr. Holthuis. J'estime qu'une application rigoureuse, en toutes circonstances, du loi de priorité conduirait à d'inextricables confusions et, bien loin de servir notre science, lui serait très préjudiciable. Il est impossible d'abandonner de noms tels que *Ligia*, *Crangon*, *Alpheus*, . . . , qui sont passés dans le langage courant, et votre Commission fera oeuvre bien utile en freinant l'ardeur des "puristes" de la Priorité.

8. *Support received from Dr. R. P. Bigelow (Woods Hole, Massachusetts, U.S.A.)* : On 2nd August 1951 Dr. R. P. Bigelow (*Woods Hole, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) wrote the following letter in support of Dr. Holthuis' application (Bigelow, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 220) :—

May I ask you to present to the International Commission my endorsement of the proposals of L. B. Holthuis (1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 83—84 and 86—87) that the Commission use their Plenary Powers to validate the following generic names :—

*Lysiosquilla* Dana, 1852  
*Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893

It certainly is true that the ruthless application of the *Règles* in these cases would cause endless confusion, and it would not serve any useful purpose.

9. *Support received from Dr. Isobel Gordon (British Museum (Natural History), London)* : On 29th October 1951, Dr. Isobel Gordon (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) wrote the following letter in support of the present and certain other applications relating to the names of genera of the Class Crustacea (Gordon, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 183) :—



I wish to say that I am willing to add my support to all the proposals submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by Dr. L. B. Holthuis :

Commission's Reference	Z.N.(S.) 231	( <i>Crangon</i> )
"	"	Z.N.(S.) 209 ( <i>Ligia</i> )
"	"	Z.N.(S.) 473 ( <i>Scyllarides</i> )
"	"	Z.N.(S.) 474 ( <i>Lysiosquilla</i> )
"	"	Z.N.(S.) 475 ( <i>Odontodactylus</i> )

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**10. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(52)12 :** On 15th April 1952, a Voting Paper (V.P.(52)12) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, the proposal " relating to the name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, as specified in Points (1) to (4) on page 87 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* " [i.e. the Points specified in paragraph 4 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**11. The prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the prescribed Voting Period closed on 15th July 1952.

**12. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)12 :** The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)12 at the close of the prescribed Voting Period closed on 15th July 1952.

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following seventeen (17) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received):*

Hering ; Calman ; Riley ; Dymond ; Esaki ; Pearson ; do Amaral ; Hankó ; Bonnet ; Lemche ; Vokes ; Cabrera ; Bradley ; Boschma ; Stoll ; Mertens ; Hemming ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Paper V.P.(52)12 was not returned by one (1) Commissioner:*

Jaczewski.

**13. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 16th July 1952, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(52)12, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 12 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**14.** On 5th March 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(52)12.

**15.** The following are the original references for the names which appear in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*:—

*Gamaris* [H.S.], 1876, *Ceylon* **2** : 275

*Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, *Johns Hopkins Univ. Circ.* **12** : 100  
*scyllarus*, *Cancer*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 633

**16.** The following is the reference for the type selection for the genus *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—Bigelow, 1931, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.* **72** : 144.

**17.** At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion

of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress on Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

18. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

19. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Ninety-Five* (295) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fifth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**

